



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
727-824-5305, FAX 727-824-5308

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Commercial Harvest for the Hook-and-Line Component of Golden Tilefish in South Atlantic Waters Will Close on December 8, 2015

The commercial harvest for the hook-and-line component of golden tilefish in South Atlantic waters will **close, at 12:01 a.m. (local time) December 8, 2015**. Commercial harvest for the hook-and-line component of golden tilefish will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on January 1, 2016. The 2015 commercial annual catch limit for the hook-and-line component of golden tilefish is 135,324 pounds gutted weight. Updated landings data indicate the commercial hook-and-line annual catch limit will be met by December 8, 2015.

The operator of a vessel that has been issued a federal commercial permit for snapper-grouper and is landing golden tilefish for sale must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such golden tilefish prior to 12:01 a.m., local time, December 8, 2015.

- The longline component of commercial

golden tilefish closed on February 19, 2015, and recreational harvest of golden tilefish was prohibited on August 11, 2015; therefore, all commercial and recreational harvest of golden tilefish is closed for the remainder of 2015.

- During the commercial closure, sale and purchase of golden tilefish is prohibited.
- The commercial and recreational closures apply in both state and federal waters for vessels, which have a federal commercial or charter vessel/headboat permit for South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper.

This closure is necessary to protect the snapper-grouper resource.